**OLLI at Duke Fall 2019  
Kris Door, lecturer kristinedoor.com**  
North Carolina Museum of Art Lectures: Wednesdays, 11:00-12:30

***Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera: Mexican Modernism***

October 30: Frida Kahl

Major Slide Titles **(Exhibition work in BOLD)**

Frida Kahlo was a complex character who is not easy to categorize.. She was multicultural, biracial, bisexual, a painter, a communist, and a childhood Catholic. She painted in symbolic narratives that expressed her experiences with her sexuality, her infertility, and with abortion and miscarriage. She was disabled by polio, by a horrific accident, by multiple serious operations and she smoked and drank in excess. She dressed as a man, as a modern woman, and as an indigenous Mexican and loved the latest cosmetics and French perfume. She decried Capitalism, but enjoyed a lifestyle way above most Mexicans in her day with a fine house and staff.

* **Acme Photo, *Diego & Frida in NY*, 1933, Gelatin Silver print, Jacques and Natasha**

**Gelman Collection**

* **Guillermo Kahlo, Mexico City photos, 1920s, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* *My Grandparents, my Parents and I, (Family Tree),* 1936, Oil & tempera on zinc MOMA
* *Portrait of My Father*, 1951, Oil on Masonite, Museo Frida Kahlo, Mexico City
* *Self Portrait in a Velvet Dress*, 1926, Oil on canvas, private collection
* *Two Women (Salvadora and Herminia)*, 1928, Oil on canvas, MFA Boston
* *Frieda and Diego Rivera*, 1931, Oil on canvas, San Francisco Museum of Art
* *Henry Ford Hospital or Flying Bed*, 1932, Oil on metal, Museo Dolores Olmedo
* **Frida and the Miscarriage (13th proof), 1932, Lithograph**
* **Frida and the Miscarriage**, **1932, Lithograph, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* ***Self-Portrait with* *Necklace*, 1933, Oil on metal, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* ***Self-Portrait on Bed*, 1937, Oil on metal, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* ***Portrait of Diego Rivera*, 1937, Oil on Masonite, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* Vogue Magazine, October 1, 1937
* **Catalogue for the Frida Kahlo exhibition at the Julien Levy Gallery, New York, 1938**
* Salvador Dali (Spanish, 1904-1989) *Girl with Death Mask*

*Apparition of Face and Fruit Dish on a Beach (She Plays Alone),* 1938, Oil on tin

1938-39, Oil on canvas, Wadsworth Atheneum Nagoya City Art Museum

* *The Suicide of Dorothy Hale*. Painted in NY & Coyoacan, 1939, Oil on Masonite,

Phoenix Art Museum

* *The Frame*, *Self-Portrait*, (c. 1937-38). Oil on aluminum, under glass and painted wood

National Museum of Modern Art, Paris

* Mexique, 1939, Exhibition Catalog, Published in Paris
* **Nickolas Muray, *Frida on Bench #5*, 1939 *Frida with Blue Satin Blo*use, 1939**

**Carbro prints, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**

* *The Two Fridas*, 1939, Oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City
* *Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair*, 1940, Oil on canvas, New York, MOMA,
* *Self-Portrait with Hummingbird and Thorn Necklace*, 1940, Oil on canvas, Nickolas Muray Collection of Modern Mexican Art, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas, Austin
* Martin Munkac, *Black Cat,* 1940 Nickolas Muray in His Studio
* Henri Rousseau (1844-1910), *The Dream*, 1910, Oil on canvas, MOMA
* Photographer unknown, 'Frida and Diego kissing following their second wedding after

signing their marriage certificate, San Francisco', 1940

* ***Self-Portrait with Braid*, 1941 Oil on canvas, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* ***Self-Portrait with Red and Gold Dress*, 1941, Oil on canvas, Jacques and Natasha**

**Gelman Collection**

* ***Diego on My Mind (Self-Portrait as Tehuana),* 1943, Oil on Masonite, Jacques and**

**Natasha Gelman Collection**

* **Bernard Silberstein (American, 1905-1999), *Frida Paints “Diego on my Mind” while***

***Diego Watche*s, 1940, Gelatin silver print, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**

* ***Self-Portrait with Monkeys*, 1943, Oil on Canvas, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection**
* ***The Bride Who Becomes Frightened When She Sees Life Opened*, 1943, Oil on canvas, Jacques**

**and Natasha Gelman Collection**

* **Diego Rivera, *Portrait of Natasha Gelman*, 1943, Oil on canvas, The Jacques and**

**Natasha Gelman Collection**

* ***Portrait of Natasha Gelman*, 1943, Oil on Masonite, Jacques and Natasha Gellman Collection**
* *Self-Portrait, The Broken Column*, 1944, Oil on Masonite, Dolores Olmedo Collection
* *Self-Portrait, Frida Kahlo*, 1948, Private Collection
* ***The Love Embrace of the Universe, the Earth (Mexico,*  *Diego, Me and Senor Xolotl,* 1949, Oil on Masonite, Jacques and Natasha Gellman Collection**
* ***Collage with Two Flies*, 1953, Collage and watercolor on cardboard, Jacques and**

**Natasha Gelman Collection**

**Important influences on the work of Frida Kahlo:**

1. Photography

* Was assistant to her photographer father and learned to hand-paint photos early in her life
* Posed for her father many times, posed for many other photographers and then posed for herself in many self-portraits.
* Used photographs for resources for her paintings.

1. Her early desire to be a doctor & her physical ailments= interest in the body and medical texts
2. Her indigenous heritage and how it represented Mexico
3. Leftist politics
4. Folk art portraits, *Arte Populaire*, ex-voto paintings or *retablos*

**Notice in the Exhibition:**

When viewing Frida’s work in the exhibition, notice how she uses line as a compositional device to connect things, physically and metaphorically; vines, tendrils, umbilical cords, veins, roots, and ribbons. What do these line networks do to the composition? Do they offer meaning to the work?